

1. Scope

2. Form and Timing of Designation

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for the Production of Documents and Electronically Stored Information shall be identified as Confidential in the load file produced accompanying those documents. Any other conveyance of Confidential information shall be accompanied by a statement that the information is Confidential. Documents and information shall be designated Confidential prior to, or contemporaneously with, the production or disclosure of the documents or conveyance of the information. Unintentional production of Documents/Information without prior designation as Confidential shall not be deemed a waiver, in whole or in part, of the right to designate Documents/Information as Confidential as otherwise allowed by this Order.

3. Documents/Information Which May Be Designated Confidential

Any Party or nonparty producing Documents/Information may designate as Confidential Documents/Information that contain (1) information protected from disclosure by statute, (2) sensitive personal information (of any Party or nonparty), (3) trade secrets (of any Party or nonparty), (4) confidential research, development, or commercial information (of any Party or nonparty), or (5) information which the Party is concerned may contain information identified in items 1-4 above and there is an expedited need to produce the documents, which shall be evaluated as promptly as possible after the initial production for their confidentiality. Information or documents that are readily available in the public sector without undue effort may not be designated as Confidential.

4. Protection of Confidential Material

a. General Protections

Documents/Information designated Confidential under this Order by one Party shall not be used or disclosed by any other Party for any purposes whatsoever other than preparing for and conducting the Litigation in which the Documents/Information were disclosed (including any

appeal of that Litigation).

b. Limited Third-Party Disclosures

The Parties and counsel for the Parties to the Litigation shall not disclose or permit the disclosure of any Documents/Information designated Confidential under the terms of this Order to any other person or entity except as set forth in subparagraphs (1) - (9) below. Disclosure to those persons or entities identified in subparagraphs (4) and (9) below may be made only after the person to whom disclosure is to be made has executed an acknowledgement (in the form set forth at Attachment A hereto), that he or she has read and understands the terms of this Order and is bound by it. The Parties and counsel for the Parties are expressly subject to this Order and are therefore excluded from the requirement of signing Attachment A before reviewing Documents/Information designated as Confidential. Subject to these requirements, the following categories of persons may be allowed to review Documents/Information which have been designated Confidential pursuant to this Order:

- (1) Counsel and employees of counsel for the Parties who have responsibility for the preparation and trial of the Litigation;
- (2) Parties, employees, and former employees of a Party to this Order but only to the extent that the specifically named individual Party, employee, or former employee's assistance is necessary to the conduct of the Litigation in which the Documents/Information are disclosed;
- (3) Court reporters engaged for depositions and those persons or entities, if any, specifically engaged to provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying; printing enlargements, compilations, or demonstratives of Documents/Information; e-discovery; and jury consultation) in the

- Litigation, and their employees and subcontractors;
- (4) Consultants, investigators, or experts (hereinafter referred to collectively as “experts”) employed by the Parties or counsel for the Parties to assist in the preparation of trial of the Litigation;
 - (5) eDiscovery consultants employed by the Parties or counsel for the Parties to assist in the production of documents and electronically-stored information during in the course of the Litigation;
 - (6) Third-party deposition or trial witnesses in the Litigation;
 - (7) The Judge and court personnel at any hearing or trial of the Litigation;
 - (8) The mediator selected by the parties as a neutral for this Litigation ; and
 - (9) Other persons only upon written consent of the producing Party or nonparty and on such conditions as are agreed to or ordered by the Court in the Litigation.

c. Control of Documents/Information

Counsel for the Parties shall take reasonable efforts to prevent unauthorized disclosure of Documents/Information designated as Confidential pursuant to the terms of this Order. Counsel shall maintain the originals-or legible electronic copies of the originals-of the forms signed by those persons acknowledging their obligations under this Order.

d. Copies

All copies duplicates, and extracts (hereinafter referred to collectively as “copies”) of Documents/Information designated as Confidential under this Order or any portion of such a Document/Information, shall be immediately affixed with the designation “Confidential” if the word does not already appear on the copy. All such copies, and all summaries and descriptions of

Documents/Information designated as Confidential, shall be afforded the full protection of this Order.

5. Filing of Confidential Materials

In the event a Party seeks to file any Documents/Information that are subject to protection under this Order with this Court during the Litigation, that Party, in accordance with the requirements of Local Civil Rules, shall take appropriate action to ensure that the Documents/Information receive proper protection from public disclosure, including: (1) appropriately redacting any Document/Information designated as Confidential before filing it publicly; (2) where appropriate (e.g., in relation to discovery, evidentiary motions, or otherwise), submitting the unredacted documents solely for *in camera* review; or (3) where the preceding measures are not adequate, following the procedures set forth in Local Civil Rules for filing an entire document under seal. In accordance with Local Civil Rules, and absent extraordinary circumstances making prior consultation impractical or inappropriate, the Party seeking to submit the Document/Information to the Court shall first consult with counsel for the Party or nonparty who designated the Document/Information as Confidential to determine if some measure less restrictive than filing a document under seal may serve to provide adequate protection to the Confidential Documents/Information. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as a prior directive to the Clerk of this Court to allow any Documents/Information to be filed under seal.

The Parties understand and agree that Documents/Information may be filed under seal only with the permission of the Court after proper motion in compliance with the procedures set forth in Local Civil Rules. The Parties further understand and agree that Documents/Information designated as Confidential under this Order do not, on that basis alone, necessarily qualify to be redacted or sealed under the applicable substantive law, Local Civil Rules, or Federal Rules of

Civil Procedure. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as abrogating the requirement that the Party designating certain Documents/Information as Confidential shall have the burden to demonstrate the propriety of sealing or redactions.

6. Depositions

Portions of depositions in the Litigation shall be treated as Confidential if designated as such when the deposition is taken or within fifteen (15) business days after receipt of the transcript. Such designation shall be specific as to the portions to be protected.

7. Challenges to Designation as Confidential or Attorneys' Eyes Only

Any Confidential designation is subject to challenge in the Litigation. The following procedures shall apply to any such challenge.

a. Burden of Proof

The burden of proving the necessity of a Confidential designation remains with the Party or nonparty asserting confidentiality.

b. Written Notice of Challenge

A Party who contends that Documents/Information designated Confidential are not entitled to confidential treatment shall give written notice to the Party who affixed the designation of the specific basis for the challenge. The Parties and any producing nonparty shall then have five (5) days from receipt of the written notice to determine if the dispute can be resolved without judicial intervention. If not, the Party challenging the designation may move for a Court order overturning or limiting the Confidential designation.

c. Treatment of Information Pending Challenge Determination

Notwithstanding any challenge to the designation of Documents/Information as Confidential, all material previously designated Confidential shall continue to be treated as subject

to the full protections of this Order until one of the following occurs:

- (1) the Party or nonparty who claims that the Documents/Information are confidential withdraws such designation in writing; or
- (2) the Court rules that the Documents/Information should no longer be designated as Confidential.

d. No Waiver of Right to Challenge

Challenges to the designation of Documents/Information may be made at any time and are not waived by the failure to raise the challenge at the time of initial disclosure or designation.

8. Inadvertent Failure to Designate

In the event any Party to the Litigation discovers it has inadvertently produced Confidential material that has not been so designated, it may designate the documents or information as Confidential by subsequent notice in writing specifically identifying the documents or information and furnishing the correct designation, in which event the Parties shall henceforth treat such information as provided in this Order.

9. Inadvertent Production of Privileged Material

This Order is intended to effectuate the protections set forth in Rule 502(b) of the Federal Rules of Evidence in the Litigation. Subject to the provisions of this Order, if a producing Party discloses Documents/Information in connection with the Litigation that the producing Party thereafter claims to be protected by the attorney-client privilege and/or work-product doctrine (“Protected Information,” with the Party making the disclosure referred to as the “Disclosing Party”), the disclosure of that Protected Information will not constitute or be deemed a waiver or forfeiture-in this or any other action-of any claim of privilege or work-product protection that the Disclosing Party would otherwise be entitled to assert with respect to the Protected Information

and its subject matter.

a. The Disclosing Party shall, within a reasonable period of time after learning of the disclosure of Protected Information, notify the Party in receipt of the Protected Information (the “Receiving Party”), in writing, that it has disclosed that Protected Information without intending a waiver by the disclosure. To the extent the Receiving Party has reasonable cause to believe it has received Protected Information, it shall notify the Disclosing Party in writing within a reasonable period of time, consistent with subsection (d) below. Upon such notification, the Receiving Party shall promptly (i) notify the Disclosing Party that it will identify and return, sequester or destroy (or in the case of electronically stored information, permanently delete) the Protected Information and any reasonably accessible copies it has; and (ii) confirm in writing that it will cease further review, dissemination, or use of the Protected Information. Within five (5) business days of the notification that such Protected Information has been returned or destroyed, the Disclosing Party shall produce a privilege log with respect to the Protected Information that explains as specifically as possible why the Protected Information is privileged. For purposes of this Order, Protected Information that has been stored on media that is not reasonably accessible, such as backup storage media, is considered sequestered. If such data is retrieved, the Receiving Party must promptly take steps to permanently delete or sequester the restored Protected Information.

b. If the Receiving Party contests the claim of attorney-client privilege or work-product protection and good-faith efforts to meet and confer do not resolve such dispute, the Receiving Party shall apply to the Court for an Order compelling disclosure of the information claimed as unprotected (a “Disclosure Motion”). The Receiving Party shall also apply to the Court for an Order permitting the Disclosure Motion to be filed under seal and/or for in camera review (as appropriate) and must not assert as a ground for compelling disclosure the fact or circumstances

of the disclosure. Pending resolution of the Disclosure Motion, the Receiving Party must not use the challenged information in any way or disclose it to any person other than those required by law to be served with a copy of the sealed Disclosure Motion. The Disclosing Party retains the burden of establishing the privileged or protected nature of any Protected Information and nothing in this Order shall limit the right of any party to request an in camera review of the Protected Information.

c. Nothing in this Order overrides any attorney's ethical responsibilities to refrain from examining or disclosing materials that the attorney knows or reasonably should know to be privileged or protected and to inform the Disclosing Party that such materials have been produced.

d. The foregoing reflects the Parties' agreement to avoid a strict waiver of privilege by reason of inadvertent disclosure, but it does not excuse the Parties from undertaking reasonable steps to prevent any such disclosure, as required by Federal Rule of Evidence 502(b), or other applicable law.

10. Treatment on Conclusion of Litigation

a. Order Remains in Effect

All provisions of this Order restricting the use of Documents/Information designated Confidential shall continue to be binding after the conclusion of the Litigation unless otherwise agreed.

b. Return or Destruction of Documents

Within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the Litigation, including conclusion of any appeal, all documents treated as Confidential under this Order, including copies as defined above (Paragraph 4(d)) shall, upon written request of the producing Party, be returned to the producing Party or nonparty or shall be destroyed and a document certifying their destruction provided to the producing Party or nonparty unless: (1) the document has been used as a

deposition exhibit, entered as evidence, or filed (unless introduced or filed under seal); or (2) as to documents containing the notations, summations, or other mental impressions of the receiving Party, the Party elects destruction. Notwithstanding the above requirements to return or destroy documents, counsel may retain attorney work product including an index which refers or relates to Documents/Information designated Confidential so long as that work product does not duplicate verbatim substantial portions of the text of the Documents/Information. This work product continues to be protected under the terms of this Order and applicable law.

11. Purpose and Intent of Order

This Order is entered solely for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of Documents/Information between the Parties without involving the Court unnecessarily in the process. The restrictions set forth in this Order shall not (a) prejudice in any way the right of any Party to object on any basis to the production of the Documents/Information it considers not subject to discovery; (b) prejudice in any way the right of any Party to seek a determination from the Court as to whether particular Documents/Information shall be produced; or (c) be construed to require any Party to produce Documents/Information that it considers privileged or otherwise not subject to discovery.

12. Order Subject to Modification

This Order shall be subject to modification on motion of any Party to the Litigation. The Order shall not, however, be modified until the Parties have been given notice and an opportunity to be heard on the proposed modification. The Court will address any such motion on an expedited basis.

13. Immediate Effect

The agreements set forth in this Order shall take immediate effect upon the execution by all Parties, and shall govern the conduct of the Parties to this Litigation, and all others signing the written Acknowledgement, upon entry of the final Order of the Court, as the Stipulated Order may be accepted or amended by the Court.

The Plaintiffs

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Dated: October 22, 2021

SO ORDERED:

Judge Richard G. Stearns
District of Massachusetts

The Defendants,

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EXHIBIT A

